


ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

6591 ORANGE DRIVE • DAVIE, FLORIDA 33314-3399

PHONE: 954.797.1034 • FAX: 954.797.2061 • WWW.DAVIE-FL.GOV

Memorandum

TO: Mayor and Council Members

THROUGH: Gary Shimun, Town Administrator 

FROM: Phillip R. Holste, Program Manager *PRH*

SUBJECT: Status of Broward County Local Mitigation Strategy: Town of Davie

DATE: September 8, 2008

Resolution 98-278, September 2, 1998, authorized the Town's participation in the development of Broward County's local mitigation strategy (LMS). Subsequently, Resolution 2004-019 adopted the local mitigation strategy plan, that was approved by FEMA on December 30, 2004. Broward County produces an annual progress report for this plan. This memo is the Town's annual progress plan specific to its participation and actions in the implementation of the plan's goals. The memo was prepared by Town staff and was reviewed, revised, and approved by Administration.

For credit under the Community Rating System, this memo must be distributed to the media and available to the public. It is being sent to the media that covers the Town of Davie. Copies of this report and of the Broward County Local Mitigation Strategy are available for review at Town Hall, 6591 Orange Drive and the Davie/Cooper City Library, 4600 SW 82 Avenue. A notice of its availability is posted on the Town's website under press releases and in the section devoted to the local flood hazard.

I. Background

The original Broward County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS thereafter) was drafted by the Broward County Mitigation Task Force and Broward County Emergency Coordinating Council in 1999-2000. The strategy focused on all potential hazards including those related to wind and flood. The plan recommended four goals to reduce and prevent hazards, including flooding.

The plan was updated in 2002-2004 and identified an additional goal which focused on increasing awareness of available funding sources for mitigation. The Town has been a member of the Mitigation Task Force since its inception and attends its quarterly meetings. In 2007-08, the Task Force completed the drafting of its Chapter 4: Risk Assessment. The Task Force is currently making preparations to begin updating the remaining LMS chapters by the end of 2009.

This document reviews those goals listed in Appendix A of the LMS. The goal's outcome will be analyzed using the defined action items to determine the Town's overall implementation and successes. The Town continually evaluates these goals and actions and makes necessary modifications as deemed necessary.

II. Review of Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: To increase the business, residential and public community's awareness of hazard mitigation.

a. Disseminate flood information through Town publications and other resources.

Status: Ongoing. The Town publishes two annual flood information outreach documents. The first document is included as a 2-page article in the Town magazine, the Davie Update, during its spring edition. The second document is a self-contained flood information brochure that covers a wide range of floodplain management subjects. This brochure is geared towards residents living in repetitive loss areas and/or special flood hazard areas. The Town, however, mails this document to the entire community. Finally, the Town disseminates a separate mailing directly to properties located in the aforementioned repetitive loss areas.

The Town's website and Town-run television channel, Channel 78 on Comcast and Channel 71 on BellSouth, are two sources through which residences receive flood information on a regular basis throughout the year. The website contains the Town's flood protection webpage that provides extensive information on flood insurance, safety, property protection measures, and other flood-related issues. This information is updated yearly. The Town has also been proactive in

getting short articles published in community newspapers relating to its flood protection efforts.

Staff recommends that the Town continue the above outreach projects and develop a public information strategy that incorporates these efforts with specialized outreach activities with realtors, homeowners associations and other target audiences.

b. Develop a clearinghouse to disseminate accurate and consistent information relating to disaster mitigation.

Status: The Town's Development Services Department serves as the central information source for disseminating disaster mitigation information. The Engineering Division has responded to flood protection assistance requests focusing on property protection measures. The Town's grant division serves as the clearinghouse for all grants including those related to disaster mitigation. Staff is available to assist residents in completing mitigation grant applications.

Goal 2: To ensure adequate training opportunities to support hazard mitigation and floodplain management.

a. Provide training opportunities to staff members involved in floodplain management.

Status: Ongoing. Town employees continue to maintain their membership in the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA). Staff attended the Florida Floodplain conference in 2008. Furthermore, staff members attended elevation certificate, FEMA benefit/cost analysis and hazard mitigation courses during the South Florida Hurricane Conference.

The Town continues to conduct internal training of public works staff on the importance of proper maintenance, the cleaning of catch basins and removing materials to prevent blockages.

Goal 3: To facilitate measures to mitigate hazards.

a. Provide site specific information and assistance to inquirers, including map information, flood protection advice, and information of selecting and dealing with contractors.

Status: This activity is ongoing. In FY2008, there were approximately 60 new flood information inquirers handled. These inquiries were related to i.e. FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) and LOMA (Letter of Map Amendment)/LOMR (Letter of Map Revision) requests. The Engineering Division continues to

conduct site visits to review flooding and drainage issues. They also provide one-on-one assistance as needed to property owners. Engineering also conducted 2,130 swale inspections in FY2008 as part of the Town's development process.

b. Implement small scale projects to correct localized flood problems

Status: This action item is ongoing.

The Town has implemented the following small scale projects in the past year:

- Regrading of front swale area throughout Town to improve stormwater conveyance system and prevent flooding
- Inspected and cleaned drainage structures throughout Town.

Goal 4: To facilitate planning initiatives to ensure effective hazard mitigation (programs and policies).

a. Monitor the implementation of the local mitigation strategy and prepare a written progress report to the Town Council yearly.

Status: This document represents the Town's update to the local mitigation strategy. In 2007-08, the Broward County Local Mitigation Task Force drafted a revision to Chapter 4: Risk Assessment. The Task Force is currently making preparations to begin updating the remaining LMS chapters by the end of 2009.

b. Update the Broward County mitigation project list to represent new local initiatives.

Status: The Town submits projects to the local mitigation task force for inclusion on the county-wide mitigation list. These sites are scored to determine their priority during grant cycles. The Davie Farm Park is the latest example of a mitigation project that has been added to the list and successfully funded.

c. Maintain the Town's Community Rating System (CRS) classification.

Status: The Town is currently a Class 7 community in the CRS program. The Town's next cycle verification visit is scheduled for September 2008. The Town anticipates maintenance of its Class 7 status.

d. Ensure the Town's Evaluation and Appraisal report (EAR) and capital improvements program evaluate the Town's drainage system and make improvements as necessary.

Status: The Town adopted the EAR on April 19, 2006 through R2006-122. The EAR evaluated the current status of the drainage system. The plan states that the Town's drainage system provides adequate protection from flooding. The Town continues to evaluate its system and identify funding sources for drainage improvements. The Town has a ongoing capital improvements drainage program. Drainage improvement projects are underway in eastern Davie. Phases II and III of this project are currently in their engineering stages. The Town is also developing a stormwater management plan for the proposed transit-oriented corridor (TOC).

e. Continue to participate in flood management programs and disseminate information and recommendations to the Town Council, staff, and residents.

Status: Town Administration and Engineering have kept the Council up to date on the Town's participation in the CRS and its compliances with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The State conducts its annual NPDES audit review in October.

f. Expansion of Town's open space and parks system

Status: In September 2005, Town residents approved a \$25 million Open Space Bond. The bond's goals included protecting the quality of water bodies and the preservation of natural areas. These funds have been used to purchase 77 acres of open space/park land including the Governor Leroy Collins Park, Old Davie School Addition, Sunny Lake Expansion, Devine Parcels, and Batten's Farm properties.

g. Create a Town floodplain management plan.

Status: The Broward County Local Mitigation Strategy currently serves as the Town's floodplain management plan. The LMS is currently being updated by the County's consultant, PBS&J, based upon feedback from task force members. Town staff is participating in these meetings and will provide comments throughout the draft process. Staff recommends delaying its floodplain management plan until the LMS update is complete. Thereafter, the Town should re-evaluate its proposed floodplain management plan at that time.

Goal 5: To increase awareness of available funding sources for mitigation.

a. Increase awareness of mitigation funding sources, especially repetitive loss properties

Status: Through its annual outreach to repetitive loss properties and/or SFHA properties, the Town provides information on the various flood mitigation grant programs, including the Flood Mitigation Assistance and Repetitive Loss. The

Town has been contacted by residents about these programs and is providing assistance to determine eligibility. The Town has also completed a repetitive loss area analysis. This analysis evaluates repetitive loss areas to identify the flooding source, determine if drainage issues are site specific or neighborhood-wide and propose potential solutions. This analysis provides a basis for identifying mitigation funding for future projects.

III. Action items that have not been completed.

Of the 13 action items reviewed, 12 items are underway (Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3b and c, Goal 4a-f, and Goal 5). Staff recommends delaying item 4g: Town-initiated floodplain management plan for following reasons: 1. Broward County and the mitigation task force members are updating the local mitigation strategy. 2. The Town needs to identify a funding source for consulting services related to developing its floodplain management plan.

Overall, 12 out of 13 action are completed or underway equating to a 92% implementation rate.

IV. Recommendations

1. Town staff should continue implementing the Progress Plan's action items and recommendations.
2. The Town should continue participating in the Broward County Mitigation Task Force. The Town should also consider creating a flood protection committee or appoint an existing committee with this role.
3. The Town should attend Broward County mitigation strategy planning meetings and provide feedback about the mitigation strategy updates. Upon completion, the Town should consider incorporating these ideas into a floodplain management plan specific to itself.
4. Update the Town website to include additional flood protection information and electronic versions of flood documents i.e. FIRM maps, elevation certificates, etc.
5. The Town should initiate a broad public information strategy that incorporates existing outreach efforts with campaign targeting specific groups i.e. building and engineering professionals, realtors and homeowners' associations.
6. The Town should obtain grant funds to conduct further flood studies and drainage improvement projects.